

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 21, 24, 25, and 31-44, as shown, below.

Please cancel claims 22, 23, and 45-48, without prejudice or disclaimer.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (currently amended): In a method for treating atherosclerosis in a mammalian subject with a lipid profile modifying patient with a statin drug wherein the improvement comprises administering to the ~~mammalian subject~~ patient an aliquot of the ~~mammal's~~ patient's blood that has been treated ~~ex-vivo~~ ex vivo with one or more stressors, selected from the group consisting of oxidative stress, thermal stress, and UV light.

Claims 22 to 23 (canceled).

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~23~~ 21 wherein the statin drug is selected from the group consisting of atorvastatin, pravastatin, lovastatin, fluvastatin, simvastatin, and cerivastatin.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method of claim 21 wherein the aliquot of the patient's blood has a volume of ~~about~~ from 0.1 to ~~about~~ 100 ml.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The method of claim 21 wherein the blood aliquot has been treated ~~ex-vivo~~ ex vivo with oxidative stress and UV light, and optionally with thermal stress.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 26 wherein the oxidative stress is a chemical oxidizing agent, said chemical oxidizing agent being applied to the blood aliquot while the blood aliquot is subjected to UV light.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method of claim 27 wherein the chemical oxidizing agent is a gaseous mixture of ozone and oxygen, said gaseous mixture being applied by bubbling through the blood aliquot while the blood aliquot is subjected to UV light.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein a thermal stressor, in the form of a temperature above or below normal body temperature, is applied to the blood aliquot simultaneously with the gas mixture and the UV light.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of claim 21 wherein the UV light stressor is UV light in the UV-C band wavelength.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The method of claim 21 wherein the stressors are applied ~~ex-vivo~~ ex vivo to the blood aliquot for a period of from ~~about~~ 2 to ~~about~~ 5 minutes.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The method of claim 24 wherein the ~~cholesterol~~ modifying statin drug is atorvastatin administered at a daily dosage of from ~~about~~ 5 to ~~about~~ 200 mg.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method of claim 24 wherein the ~~cholesterol~~ modifying statin drug is pravastatin administered at a daily dosage of from ~~about~~ 5 to ~~about~~ 200 mg.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method of claim 24 wherein the ~~cholesterol~~ modifying statin drug is ~~simvastatin~~ simvastatin administered at a daily dosage of from ~~about~~ 5 to ~~about~~ 200 mg.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The method of claim 24 wherein the ~~cholesterol~~ modifying statin drug is fluvastatin administered at a daily dosage of from ~~about~~ 5 to ~~about~~ 200 mg.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The method of claim 24 wherein the ~~cholesterol~~ modifying statin drug is lovastatin administered at a daily dosage of from ~~about~~ 5 to ~~about~~ 200 mg.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The method of claim 24 wherein the ~~cholesterol~~ modifying statin drug is cerivastatin administered at a daily dosage of from ~~about 5~~ 0.1 to ~~about 200~~ 0.8 mg.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The method of claim 21 wherein administration of the ~~cholesterol-modifying~~ statin occurs prior to administration of the blood that has been treated ex vivo with one or more stressors.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The method of claim 21 wherein administration of the ~~cholesterol-modifying~~ statin drug occurs simultaneously with administration of the blood that has been treated ex vivo with one or more stressors.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The method of claim 21 wherein administration of the ~~cholesterol-modifying~~ statin drug overlaps administration of the blood that has been treated ex vivo with one or more stressors.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The method of claim 21 wherein administration of the blood that has been treated ex vivo with one or more stressors occurs prior to administration of the ~~cholesterol-modifying~~ statin drug.

Claim 42 (currently amended): A method of slowing or arresting the progression and/or effecting the regression of atherosclerotic plaque deposits and/or improving the stability of such plaques in a mammalian patient, the method comprising administering to the patient a ~~cholesterol~~ modifying statin drug and an aliquot of the patient's own blood which has been treated ex vivo with one or more stressors, selected from the group consisting of an oxidative stress, thermal stress, and UV light.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A method of reducing serum lipid levels and/or combating the development of atherosclerosis in a mammalian patient, the method comprising:

a) administering to the patient an aliquot of the patient's own blood which has been treated ex vivo with one or more stressors, selected from the group consisting of, an oxidative stress, thermal stress, and UV light; and

b) administering to the patient a ~~cholesterol-lowering~~ statin drug.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A method of enhancing the reduction in serum lipid levels in a mammalian patient caused by administration of a ~~cholesterol-lowering~~ statin drug, the method comprising:

a) administering to the patient an aliquot of the patient's own blood which has been treated ex vivo with one or more stressors, selected from the group consisting of an oxidative stress, thermal stress, and UV light; and

b) administering to the patient a ~~cholesterol-lowering~~ statin drug.

Claims 45 through 48 (canceled).